

A woman with short hair, wearing a blue and green patterned dress, is seen from behind, filling a metal bowl from a natural rock spring. The water is flowing from a hole in the rock into a pool. A large white plastic bucket is on the left. The background is a rugged, brown rock face.

# AQUA AFRICA

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

OMAHA  
WE DON'T COAST®



*“The extreme poverty in Maiwut Town breaks my heart. We will work in this community until drinking water is*

**NO LONGER COLLECTED IN THIS WAY!”**

**- Mabior Acouth**

During dry season, Aqua-Africa Program Director Acouth visits a dry riverbed where Maiwut women collect drinking water for their families.



**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

# Chief Executive's Letter

Hello and welcome! What a busy 2022 we had!!

Last year, Aqua-Africa developed and strengthened its processes and operational capacity in South Sudan. In our Juba office, we implemented a new accounting system and formalized Financial and Human Resource processes. The South Sudan team also collaborated to produce clearly defined mission and vision statements, as well as 5-year strategic plans. Notably, the team completed its very first annual external audit of the office's financial records in 2022.

Through our growing relationship with USAID and DT Global, we formalized and piloted Aqua-Africa's MicroDemocracy Program and training materials during 2022. Five South Sudan communities were promptly trained using the new materials, strengthening our reputation as a reliable service provider and subcontractor.

Despite unusually heavy seasonal rains, and regional flooding, we made solid progress on the Maiwut Village Supplier development project. The strength and durability of our village supplier utility systems coupled with our MicroDemocracy water management/governance program, continue to differentiate our business operations from those of other water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) service providers working in the country.

In Omaha, Aqua-Africa partnered with the Douglas-Sarpy County 4-H, Imagine Science, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Office educators to develop and pilot a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) youth summer camp program during 2022. Seven Omaha youth organizations and nearly eighty 6th to 9th graders, participated in the six-week day camp that concluded with a "Build an African Hut" competition hosted by Aqua-Africa on UNO's campus in early August. The campers experienced a "hands on" learning approach, while also being exposed to economics, African culture, global issues, and some of the city's outstanding technology companies. We are very excited about this partnership and the continuation of this impactful summer camp program going forward.

Many thanks for your continued interest in, and support of, our work. You make it happen!

I sincerely hope you enjoy the report!



**Buey Ray Tut**  
Chief Executive Officer




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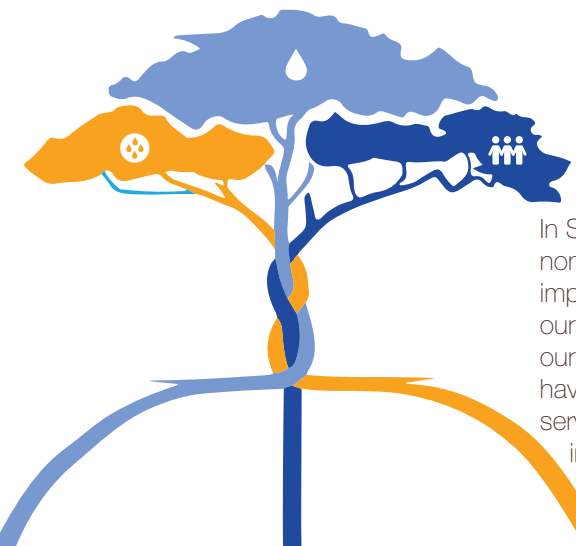


As a subcontractor to USAID and DT Global, Aqua-Africa is teaching communities about democracy and water governance processes. Water Management Committees are chosen by secret ballot. These committees set water management policy, collect usage fees, and ensure ongoing maintenance of the installed water infrastructure.



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Clean, accessible water is essential for the development of healthy, thriving communities. The same can be said for access to adequate sanitation and energy. In South Sudan, one of the poorest countries in the world, these basic resources are non-existent in most communities. For over a decade, Aqua-Africa has worked to improve clean water access in South Sudanese communities. For the first several years our approach was responsive and geographically scattered. Since the introduction of our first solar-powered Village Supplier Utility System (VSUS) water towers in 2015, we have refined our development approach, recognizing the urgent need for other related services such as hygiene, sanitation, and energy to ensure maximum, sustainable impact. Our MicroDemocracy training program and processes for election of Water Management Committees continues to differentiate our approach to resource governance, and to empower women within these roles.

# WITHOUT WATER NOTHING CAN GROW

## CLEAN WATER

Aqua-Africa believes that providing reliable access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene, and energy to South Sudanese communities over a five-to-ten-year “adoption” period will lead residents to view them as a necessary part of their lives. We refer to these services as “WASH+E”. Improved community health and increased economic activity will, in turn, create demand for the services and a willingness to contribute financially towards their sustainability. Reliable access to clean water is the foundational service.

## ENERGY

Nearly 600 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have electric power for lighting after sundown. Only 1 percent of South Sudan's population has access to an electrical grid. Aqua-Africa seeks to provide affordable lighting and power to the communities it serves by using excess solar energy and state-of-the-art battery technology.

## SANITATION & HYGIENE

Just 10% of South Sudan's people have access to improved sanitation, such as a latrine. Open defecation is common practice. Aqua-Africa envisions a country where latrines or septic systems are available and maintained, and communities sensitized to the importance of a sanitation plan. Hygiene promotion across the country will prevent the transmission of diseases and provide a healthy future for all.





### **Bridging Cultural Gaps**

Aqua-Africa CEO, Buey Tut, meets with “Build A Hut” summer campers at UNO’s Peter Kiewit Institute. Buey discusses his founding of Aqua-Africa, the organization’s developmental work in South Sudan, his experiences as an immigrant, and the very import role math and science play in the organization’s work.



Using their immigrant story, Aqua-Africa's founders visit local schools and youth organizations to provide a program that exposes youth to African culture, global issues, and international development. The goal of this program is to introduce youth to what it means to be an immigrant, black and a black immigrant. There are cultural challenges that immigrants face when settling in America, and again when returning to their country of origin. The talks highlight how compassion, understanding and humanity can transform the immigrant experience. Students gain increased appreciation of immigrant contributions to society and to the cultural fabric of the community. Using the mission in South Sudan as a foundation, the founders challenge youth to look beyond their front door to understand peoples' differences and embrace similarities of people in their classroom, neighborhood, nation and world. The program inspires hope for many youths who struggle with self-doubt, acceptance and the definition of a future role for themselves in society.



## BRIDGE CULTURAL GAPS THAT EXIST IN THE COMMUNITY

### HELPING YOUTH WITH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH

#### OBJECTIVE

Aqua-Africa seeks to present Buey's story as a young black entrepreneur to schools (elementary, middle, high), youth organizations and service clubs. It is believed that Buey's story as an immigrant and Aqua-Africa's mission can:

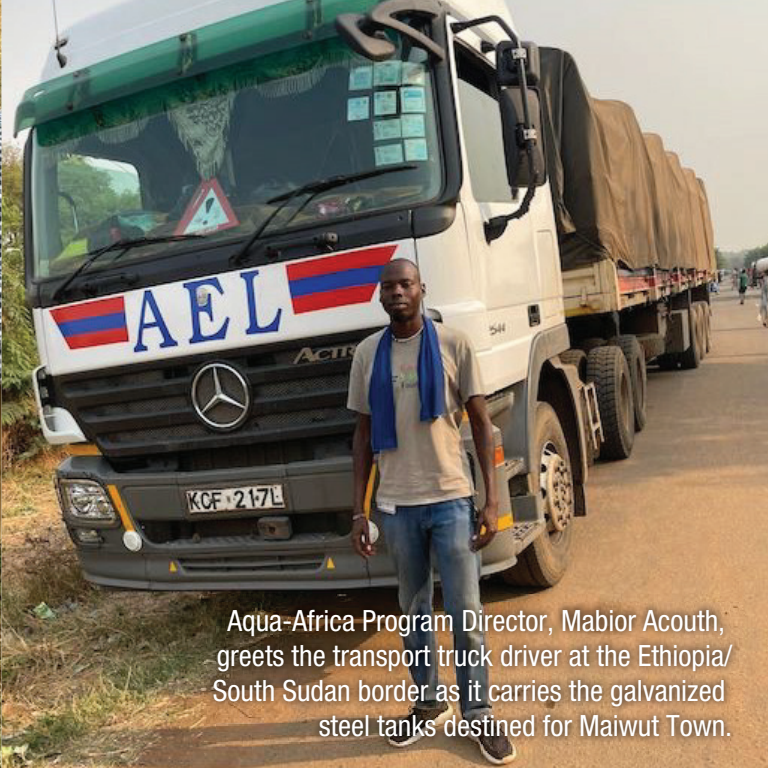
- Encourage disadvantaged youth to be hopeful about their future prospects and contributions.
- Expose youth to immigrants and immigrant contributions.
- Educate people about the needs of people outside America's borders.
- Encourage middle schoolers to continue math and science academic studies in high school.

#### DESIRED RESULTS

- Help youth think about what they can do to make an impact.
- Help youth to better understand immigrants.
- Help youth understand the collective impact we can have on the rest of the world.
- Presentation to 1,000 students each year.
- Use the organization's water, energy, and sanitation development work to inform youth how science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) techniques are being applied.



Geologists from CRN Drilling Company complete geophysical survey work in Maiwut Town to identify optimal drilling sites.



Aqua-Africa Program Director, Mabior Acouth, greets the transport truck driver at the Ethiopia/ South Sudan border as it carries the galvanized steel tanks destined for Maiwut Town.



Maiwut Town residents assist with unloading of the Village Supplier water tanks from the transport truck.



CRN Drilling Company workers labor to move the supply truck through roads that are impossible to navigate. Maiwut Town awaits.



Much of Aqua-Africa's 2022 development efforts were directed at the transport of building materials to Maiwut Town and the mobilization of our vendor's drilling rig and supply truck to the community. Our vendor, CRN Drilling Company began the trek to Maiwut in mid-May and encountered heavier than usual seasonal rains and flooding. Despite heroic efforts by CRN's team to reach Maiwut, the roads were simply too muddy for travel. CRN's team placed the trucks in storage at the town of Melut, in Upper Nile State awaiting dry season. We are excited to report that the trucks have now reached their destination and have begun the construction of the 4 village supplier water systems that will serve up to 10,000 people in the community clean drinking water!







**AQUA-AFRICA SPOTLIGHT**  
**THE RESIDENTS OF**  
**MAIWUT TOWN**

In March, Aqua-Africa's Program Director traveled to Maiwut. It is a community with a strong faith in God and in the power of prayer. The community is excited for the remarkable impacts that clean, accessible, drinking water will provide for their families. They are a humble and thankful people, and Aqua-Africa is committed to serving their needs.







The Ashton Building at Millwork Commons and the downtown Omaha skyline.

# A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD AND SOME NEW FRIENDS



## Millwork Commons

In January, Aqua-Africa moved its U.S. office headquarters to the Mastercraft Building on the Millwork Commons campus, just north of downtown Omaha and Charles Schwab Field. Aqua-Africa's team has found the Millwork Commons campus to be the optimal location for collaboration with other entrepreneurs, creatives, and business tenants. The facilities allow the organization to host a weekly Center Sphere small business meeting in the Mastercraft lounge area, and to take volunteers and donors to Archetype Coffee or Kros Strain Brewing for drinks and conversation. If you are looking for a great office location, make the move to Millwork Commons and join us.



## 4-H/University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

During the summer, Aqua-Africa partnered with the Douglas-Sarpy County 4-H and UNL Extension team to pilot a "Build A Hut" youth summer camp for middle school youth. Aqua-Africa helped the university extension team to develop a curriculum that exposes youth to the organization's experiences in South Sudan and the African continent. Area youth are taught construction engineering, about the application of solar energy, and water transportation/purification (civil engineering). The Douglas-Sarpy team's attention to detail and follow-through helped us get kids excited about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and we look forward to continuing this partnership for years to come.

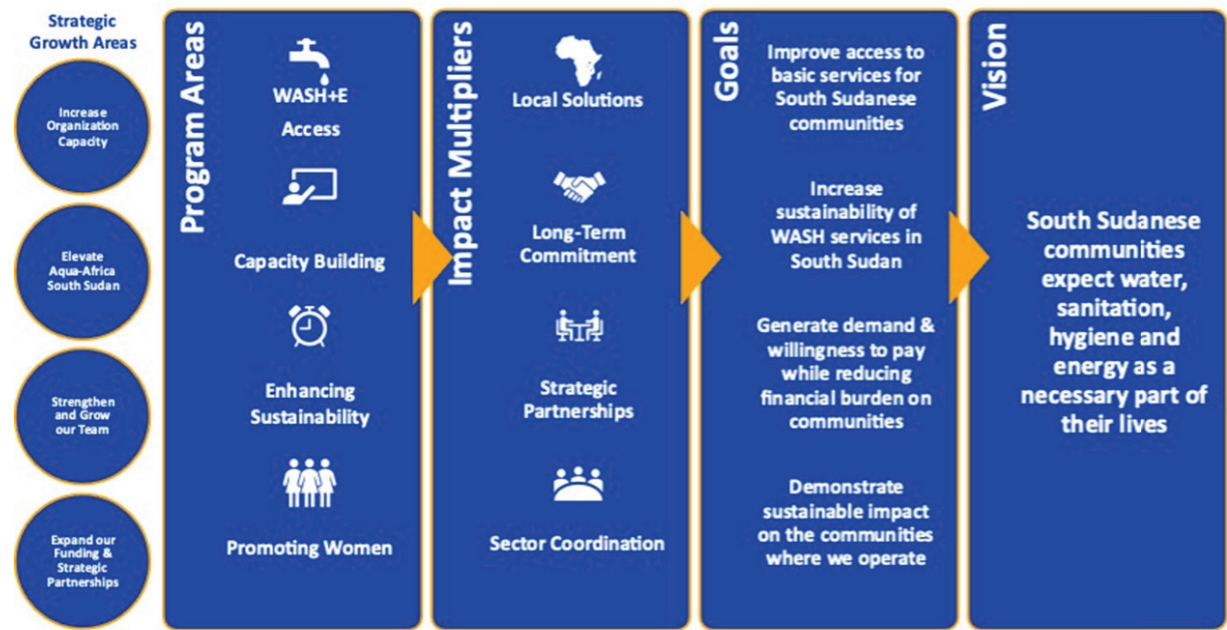


## Water for People

During 2022, Aqua-Africa was introduced to the executive leadership team of Denver-based Water for People (WFP) by one of our donors. While Aqua-Africa was preparing its 5-year strategic plans, Buey Tut, Aqua-Africa's CEO received coaching from Water for People's Co-CEO, Samson Bekele. Aqua-Africa has greatly benefited from this mentoring relationship. During 1st Quarter 2023, Samson and another member of his WFP team visited South Sudan to perform a "capacity audit" of Aqua-Africa. We are excited to receive their feedback and to continue to move our organization toward the "Everyone/Forever" service model WFP so effectively executes. It is our desire to grow and strengthen this new friendship.

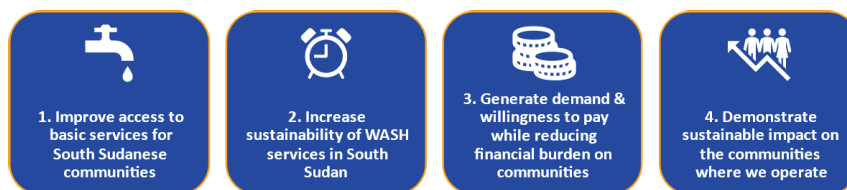


Over the next five years, Aqua-Africa will focus internally on our four strategic growth areas. Externally, we will simultaneously continue to make progress toward our goals and overall vision by implementing four key program areas, enhanced by our impact multipliers. We call this our Strategic Roadmap (see below).



# CLEAN WATER IS JUST THE BEGINNING

During 2022, Aqua-Africa's South Sudan team developed a 5-year strategic plan. A copy of the entire plan and budget is available upon request. Over the next five years, Aqua-Africa seeks to build our organizational capacity and strengthen our programming to bring greater impact at scale to the communities of South Sudan. We have four overarching goals during this five-year period:



Since our first project in 2011, Aqua-Africa has continually provided over 22,000 people across the country with reliable clean water. Over the next five years, we endeavor to more than double our reach, extending clean water services to at least 50,000 additional people. Aqua-Africa will focus on three priority geographies where we have the presence, relationships, and momentum to have the most impact: Nzara County, Western Equatoria State; Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State; and Maiwut County, Upper Nile State.

## Our Goals & Commitments

1. Improve access to basic services for South Sudanese communities. Our commitment:
  - A. Support three priority counties with improved WASH+E access in targeted communities and institutions.
  - B. Coordinate at the county, state, and national level to support overall improved WASH coverage in these priority counties.
2. Increase sustainability of WASH services in South Sudan. Our commitment:
  - A. Build the capacity to govern, operate, and maintain WASH infrastructure in the communities where we operate, with an emphasis on empowering women within these roles.
  - B. Share our tools and knowledge to improve sustainability of WASH services outside of our direct communities of implementation.
3. Generate demand and willingness to pay while reducing financial burden on communities. Our commitment:
  - A. Gradually transfer financial responsibility through our adoption period.
  - B. Create alternative revenue streams to subsidize household contributions.
  - C. Use the most durable and cost-effective infrastructure solutions, reducing the overall lifecycle costs passed to the community.
4. Demonstrate sustainable impact on the communities where we operate. Our commitment:
  - A. Enhance our monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capabilities to better capture the impact of our work and elevate the use of data in our programming decisions.
  - B. Transparently share our impact and learnings with our stakeholders.





The NorthStar Foundation team constructs their hut under the guidance of Anthony Roebuck from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Durham School of Engineering.



Coach Mike McMeekin, former CEO of Lamp Rynearson civil engineering guides youth from Partnership 4 Kids (P4K) in proper construction techniques. Nebraska extension educator, and energy expert, John Hay looks on.



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Youth from Completely Kids receive instruction from coach and retired engineer, Heidi Novotny of the Army Corps of Engineers.



# “BUILD-A-HUT” COMPETITION AWARENESS EVENT

## STEM Summer Camp & Competition

In partnership with Imagine Science, the Douglas-Sarpy County 4-H/UNL Extension Office, Aqua-Africa hosted a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) youth summer camp for middle school youth. This was our pilot year for the summer camp and competition. The competition was hosted by Aqua-Africa on UNO's campus on August 4th. Six teams competed from the following organizations: Girls Inc., Northstar, Completely Kids, Partnership 4 Kids, Emerging Ladies Academy, and the Malcolm X Center. A \$1,000 prize was awarded to the winning team from Partnership 4 Kids to advance their math and science programming. A photograph of the African huts constructed during competition is shown below:





# STAFF & SUPPORTERS

## Staff

Chief Executive Officer: Buey Ray Tut  
Operations Director: Dana Bradfield  
Program Director: Mabior Acouth  
Chief Financial Officer: Wel Akau  
Comm. Relations & Advocacy Officer: Beatrice Safari Karlo  
Project Officer: Deng Madit Kuchlong  
Nzara Compound Supervisor: Taban Beneai Ruba  
Nzara Guard: James Tiyo Silvan  
Nzara Guard: Gibson Absai Agrab

## Board of Directors

President: Dr. Lyn Graves  
Vice President : Lindsey Rai Kortan  
Treasurer: Dana Bradfield  
Secretary: Don Royer  
Advisor: Mike McMeekin  
Advisor: Eric Gautschi  
Advisor: Cynthia Schroeder  
Chief Executive Officer: Buey Ray Tut

## Committee Leaders

Public Relations Committee: Dave Campbell  
Finance Committee: Cynthia Schroeder  
Operations Committee: Mike McMeekin  
Events Committee: Dana Bradfield  
Legal Committee: Dan Reeker  
Strategic Committee: Leah Tirpak Waters

## In Kind Donors

Craig Hoekstra  
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates

## Organizations

All Access International  
Amazon Smile Foundation  
American Endowment Foundation  
Anonymous (2)  
Bay Charitable Trust  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
DT Global  
FaceBook Donations  
Faith Charitable Trust  
Heritage Omaha  
Holland Basham Architects  
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc.  
Lawrence R. Anderson Trust  
LPIF Foundation  
Mesa West Rotary Club  
Omaha Community Foundation  
Sherwood Foundation  
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth  
Spiars Engineering & Surveying  
Stroh Financial Group  
The Community Foundation For Greater Atlanta  
Thrivent Financial  
Todd and Betiana Simon Foundation  
Valmont Industries, Inc.  
William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation

## Individuals

Aaron Duncan  
Aaron Hoekstra  
Aaron Menzel  
Allan and Jackie Zimmerman  
Allison Seyler  
Alvin and Suzanne Townley  
Barbara and Bill Engebretsen  
Bema Mamet  
Brooks Lumpkin  
Burton Finch  
Charles Cordova

Chris Stratton  
Claudia and Tony Deeb  
Craig and Katherine Hoekstra  
Dale and Joy Ausdemore  
Dana and Jodeen Bradfield  
Donald and Brenda Royer  
Doug Friedman  
Ellen Dooling McGurk  
Erica Heiden  
Gary Dalmasso  
George and Cindy Schroeder  
Jacob Pulfer  
Janet McCrae  
Jason Jackson  
Jaymes Sime  
Jessica Jarosh  
John and Dianne Scott  
John and Wende Kotouc  
Jonathan Kuespert  
Joseph Tirpak  
Kyle Redford  
Leah and Shane Waters  
Leanne S Tirpak  
Linda and Terry Gadwood  
Lisa Lee  
Margaret and Michael McMeekin  
Mari Ann Keith  
Maria Mendes Pinto  
Marlaina Bates  
Marshall Faith  
Matthew Williams  
Mirvat Al-Hajj  
Molly and John Campbell  
Nathan Hoekstra  
Paul and Cherri Cronen  
Sara Larkins  
Sean Stoughton  
Steven Jerina  
Steven Lloyd and Ann Macdougall  
Terry Mulder



## An Excellent Year – Positioned for Continued Success

2022 was an excellent financial year. Revenues exceeded expenses by over \$243,000 as shown in the table below. This revenue growth was largely the result of a one-time gift of \$100,000 to Aqua-Africa's general operations and a program gift of \$50,000 towards the Maiwut Project. We were thrilled to receive funding through several new donor relationships. These included All Access International and Samaritan's Purse, who jointly committed nearly \$100,000 in Project funding for the Maiwut project. Additionally, the Omaha "Build A Hut" Program produced \$31,000 in program funding during the year.

Aqua-Africa has established a very reliable donor base and continues to grow its service revenue. Contracted services to USAID and DT Global produced over \$100,000 in revenue. Over the next 5 years, we expect to grow annual revenues to approximately \$1 million to meet our strategic plans. This revenue growth will primarily be accomplished through increased service revenue and new grant funding.

As described in this annual report, much of the 2022 focus was on building staff and the operational capacity of our South Sudan office. The mobilization of materials and people to Maiwut was also a significant cost and accomplishment. 2022 Expenditures were \$484K vs. \$378K in 2021: an increase of 28%. Program costs associated with well-drilling, project travel, water system installation and South Sudanese community education, accounted for over 81% of all organization expenditures. Aqua-Africa had \$385,000 in its financial accounts at year-end. In addition, there was \$48,000 in outstanding receivables for Aqua-Africa work performed but not yet reimbursed. As we enter 2023, Aqua-Africa is in a very solid financial position.

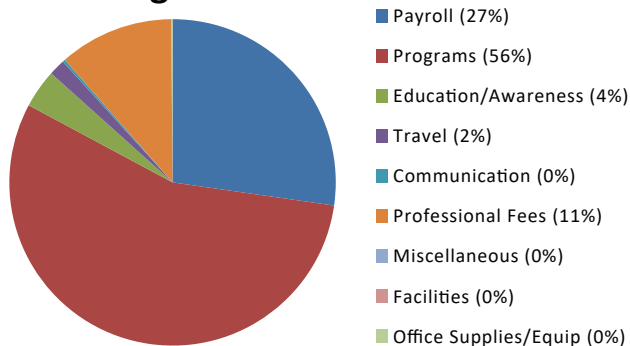
### 2022 Expenses

Programs	\$393,883
Overhead	\$89,869
Total Expenses	\$483,752

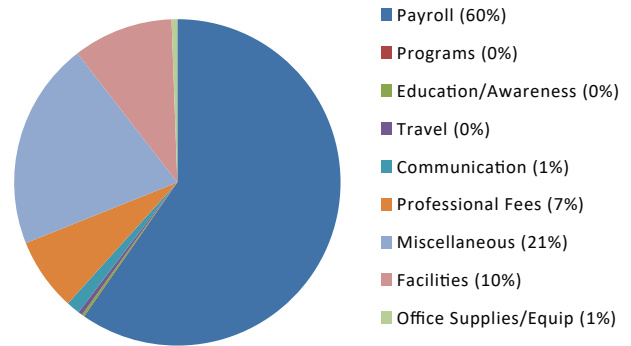
### 2022 Revenue

Cash Gifts	\$618,075
Service Revenue	\$100,949
In-Kind Prof Svcs	\$8,000
Total Income	\$727,024

### Programs



### Overhead







Aqua-Africa Program Director, Mabior Acouth, discusses water usage policy and the collection of water usage fees with newly elected Lochuloit Village Water Management Committee members, as part of USAID's Afia WASH Program.

**AQUA AFRICA**  
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